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Assisting the Vulnerable Conflict-Affected in Darfur

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COUNTRY CONTACT	HEADQUARTERS CONTACT	PROGRAM SUMMARY	
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Country Director	Senior Program Officer	Start Date	December 1, 2012
House No. 19/1, Block No. 13	45 SW Ankeny Street	End Date	January 31, 2015
Riyadh, Khartoum, Sudan	Portland, Oregon 97204 USA	Report Date	July 31, 2014
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1. Overview

Security

A new wave of insecurity and violence across Darfur that started in early 2014 has generated enormous additional humanitarian needs. Fighting, tensions and insecurity involved government forces supported by the Rapid Support Forces, a government-affiliated militia, as well as armed movements and armed tribal militia. Hostilities and violence spread across much of North and South Darfur, with spillover effects to West, Central and East Darfur. Since the beginning of 2014, the cumulative number of people who have been displaced stands at 397,057. This includes both the number of people who are still displaced as of today and those who have returned to their areas of origin. The number is in addition to some 2 million people in Darfur who have been facing long-term displacement since 2003-2005, having fled their homes during the height of the conflict.

According to UN OCHA, as of 15 July 2014, 265,760 people remain displaced in Darfur by recent violence while close to 131,300 people have returned to their areas of origin. While some returned permanently, others returned to cultivate their land during the current planting season.

During the early stages of this crisis, aid agencies were unable to access many affected areas due to violence and insecurity, as well as denials of access by authorities. As of 15 July, aid agencies have access to 253,260 people out of the 266,000 who remain displaced. This accounts for 95% of all those who are still displaced. In the past couple of months, humanitarian aid agencies have been able to reach most of the affected areas. However, even though humanitarian access has opened up, the situation does remain fluid due to both the high mobility of armed forces and opposition groups and a significant increase in criminality.

Threats of kidnapping and carjacking around Nyala town, especially targeting humanitarian agencies, continued. Various security incidents involving humanitarian aid staff and assets were reported in different parts in Darfur. Despite the various security incidents and restrictions in Nyala, Mercy Corps Sudan (MCS) field staff members continued to access and implement program planned activities in the three IDP camps and the rural areas (with due security precautions and vigilance) whenever they were given travel permissions by the Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) to move into the field.

Program Implementation

During the past quarter MCS continued implementing WASH, Agriculture and Food Security (AFS), and Economic Recovery and Market System (ERMS) sector activities in three IDP camps including Dereige, Sakaly, and Elsereif Camps. Activities in Abga Rajel rural area were resumed during the month of May after the displaced population started coming back from Alsalam IDP camp and Nyala town where they took refuge due to insecurity during the month of February 2014. MCS also started AFS program activities in Sani Delieba village of Alsalam locality.

AFS sector activities mainly involved farmer training on vegetable production and organizing seed fairs for the farmers while ERMS sector activities involved the training

of facilitators from technical institutions on business skills and the training of vocational trainees on basic business skills.

During the first week of July 2014, MCS M&E team, jointly with program staff, conducted a KAP survey of 339 households in the three IDP camps (including 149 Dereige, 60 Sakaly, and 130 Elserif). The survey aimed to evaluate the progress and impact of the program.

2. Program Accomplishments

Sector 1: WASH

Sub-sector 1.1: Water Supply

During this quarter, MCS continued to support the operation and maintenance of 11 motorized water systems in Dereige, Sakaly and Elserif Camps and provided approximately a total of 4,185 cubic meters of safe drinking water per day, benefitting 50,571 people (population figures updated by IOM as of April 2014) including 22,436 in Dereige, 7,906 in Sakaly and 20,229 in Elserif.

In Elserif Camp, MCS coordinated with the WASH sector co-lead and WES for filling the gap of drinking water for the new displacements (3,939 individuals verified by IOM). Therefore, one additional hand pump upgraded by World Vision International (WVI) was connected to the existing MCS Perkins generator funded under the current award by OFDA. The upgraded pump pumped 40 cubic meters of water to fill the water bladders twice per day for the new arrivals. Furthermore MCS has increased the pumping hours and fills 50 cubic meters of the elevated tank twice per day to meet the needs of the increased population so that sufficient water (as close as possible to the Sphere Project standards of 15 litres per person per day) is available for personal hygiene and drinking needs and to prevent the spread of Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) in Alzhra and Katila sectors in Elserif Camp.

MCS staff intensified water quality, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities to control the outbreak of the disease. A WHO morbidity report has shown a huge decrease of AJS cases being reported; during week 25 there were only two cases reported by the WHO in Elserif Camp whereas there were 65 reported cases in February and 295 cases reported in April. MCS also conducted 24 ground water monitoring exercises to measure the levels of water tables in ten boreholes in the three camps. The results of the KAP survey show that an average of 16.2 liters of water are available per person per day in the three camps.



Water bladder (ten cubic meter) constructed by MCS for the new arrivals in Elserif IDP Camp

The WASH sector continued water quality monitoring and the analysis of Free Residual Chlorine samples (Residual chlorine exceeding 0.2 mg/l). The results of samples collected from water points and water containers (jerry cans) showed an average adequate level of chlorine. The FRC samples collected from the household water storage containers (clay pots) showed that an average of 0.42% of the samples had low levels of chlorine (0.0-0.1 mg/l) due to the inadequate cleanliness of the household water storage containers, especially in Dereige and Elserif camps. The hygiene promoters were asked to pay special attention to drinking water storage and cleanliness while promoting domestic hygiene.

The sector also continued water quality analyses for bacteriological tests. The results of bacteriological tests for water samples collected from households (water collection and storage containers) showed that 18 out of 20 (90%) samples had 0% faecal coliforms bacteria in Dereige Camp, 19 out of 20 (95%) samples collected from households (water collection and storage containers) showed 0% faecal coliforms bacteria in Elserif Camp and 15 (75%) out of 20 samples collected from household (water collection and storage containers) indicated 0% faecal coliforms bacteria in Sakaly Camp.



The results of free residual chlorine tests in water points showed 17 (57%) out of 30 samples with free residual chlorine exceeding 0.2 mg/l in Dereige Camp, 19 (63%) out of 30 samples collected from water points with FRC exceeding 0.2 mg/l in Elserif Camp and 19(63%) out of 30 samples tested with FRC exceeding 0.2 mg/l in Sakaly Camp.

Community volunteer measuring water level in Dereige Camp

Sub-sector 1.2: Sanitation

MCS continued supporting construction of new household latrines and the rehabilitation and replacement of old household latrines in three IDP camps. A total of 279 new household latrines were constructed for the new displacement including 170 in Elserif and 109 in Dereige Camps. MCS cooperated with UNICEF/WES to construct household latrines for the people affected by AJS in the Alzhra and Katila sectors in Elserif Camp who did not already have them. Two hundred more household latrines were constructed by the Water and Environmental Sanitation Project (WES) and Funded by IOM. Furthermore, 183 old household latrines were rehabilitated or replaced for the community affected by Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) in the Alzhra and Katila sectors in Elserif Camp. These were in addition to the 279 newly constructed latrines in the same communities.



New arrival child using a latrine and temporal hand washing facility in Elserif Camp

Sub-sector 1.3: Environmental Health

During the reporting period, MCS continued to support the community with solid waste management tools including rakes, local baskets, and brooms, and provided 26 rental donkey carts in the three IDP camps. MCS also organized daily clean-up campaigns and hired six additional donkey carts for solid waste disposal in order to control the outbreak of Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) in Elserif camp. Community hygiene promoters sensitized women and youth groups to participate in solid waste management exercises as well as cleaning their houses, public places, collection and disposal of garbage by using rental donkey carts to transfer waste to final dumping sites. MCS shared an Acute Watery Preparedness Plan for the rainy season with UNICEF/WES and conducted four Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) information sessions for 145 women including 85 in Elserif, 30 in Sakaly and 30 Dereige Camps. Furthermore, MCS provided 13 trips with a hired loader machine to pick up sand which the community used to backfill pits and modify water drainages to avoid flooding and reduce breeding sites for mosquitos in sector 12 of Dereige Camp.



Community members participating in backfilling pits in Dereige Camp



Loader backfilling man made pits in the new arrival area in Dereige Camp

Sub-sector 1.4: Hygiene Promotion

During this quarter, MCS continued hygiene promotion campaigns and raising community awareness through home visits, dialogues, and group discussions, particularly for the community affected by the outbreak of Acute Jaundice Syndrome (AJS) in Elserif Camp.

A total of 54 community hygiene promoters were trained on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) including 28 people (14 male and 14 female) in Dereige, 7 female in Sakaly and 19 people (13 female and 6 male) in Elserif Camps. MCS hygiene promoters worked together with IOM volunteer community workers for one month in Elserif Camp to facilitate this training.

The teams have covered the entire disease-affected area and educated the population on AJS preventative measures (e.g. hand washing with water and soap before preparing food and after using a latrine and safe handling of food and drinking water).

MCS, in collaboration of UNICEF, distributed 1,446 water collection containers (jerry cans) for newly displaced households and 140 cartons of soap to 1,260 households (five pieces per family) in Elserif Camp, and also distributed jerry cans and soap to 273 families in Dereige Camp.

Hygiene promotion campaigns also focused on improvement of water quality and water handling practices. Hygiene promoters sensitized the community at water tap stands and conducted 72 exercises in water collection, use of storage containers, cleaning, and disinfection in the three camps.



Women participants during an Acute Watery Diarrhoea training in Dereige Camp

Sector 2: Agriculture and Food Security

Sub-sector 2.1: Seed Systems and Agricultural Inputs

During the reporting period, MCS staff conducted farmer training on vegetable production in the three IDP camps of Deriege, Sakaly, and Elserif. Twelve training

sessions of three days each were conducted and a total of 600 farmers, including 360 females and 240 males were trained.

MCS also conducted two training sessions in Sani Delieba rural village for 100 farmers including 47 females and 53 males. The total number of farmers trained to date under the current funding is 700 farmers, including 407 females and 293 males. The trainings, intended to equip farmers with knowledge and skills on vegetable production, were conducted with the facilitation of staff from the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Vegetable Production Training participants at Deriege Camp



Facilitator demonstrating seeds and tools at Deriege

During the reporting period, 1,650 households with 9,909 individuals (5,482 females and 4,427 males) were supported with staple crop seeds for rainy season planting through seed fairs and seed vouchers. MCS organized five seed fairs and 1,500 farmers, including 709 females and 791 males, received staple crop seeds using seed vouchers. A total of 7,500 kgs of sorghum, 7,500 kgs of millet, 30,000 kgs of groundnuts, 3,000 kgs of cowpeas and 1,500 kgs of okra were distributed to the farmers. Each farmer received the following seed: 5 kgs of sorghum, 5 kgs of millet, 20 kgs of groundnuts, 2 kgs of cowpeas and 1 kg of okra.

Of these, the seed varieties received by the farmers included Bayoda and Ashana millet varieties, Wad Ahmed, Yarwasha, Arfa Gadamak and Tabat sorghum varieties, Sodiri groundnut variety, local cowpeas variety and local okra varieties. Three hundred farmers were selected from Dereige Camp, 300 farmers from Sakaly Camp, 300 farmers from Elserif Camp, 300 farmers from Abga Rajel and Zalata villages, and 300 farmers Sani Deleiba for the seed fairs.

All seed fairs were supervised by the Seed Fair Committees of their respective area, and these committees were equally represented by the camp community leaders, two representatives from the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and one representative from State HAC. Four seed vendors were involved in the seed fairs and the seed supplied by the vendors was first tested for germination by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The seeds that did not meet the minimum seed germination standards set by the Ministry were rejected.



Beneficiaries in Abga Rajel rural areas receive seeds during the seed fair



Seed beneficiary verification exercise in Abga Rajel

Land opening for the new planting in Abga Rajel



Seed fair exercise in Deriege IDP Camp

Seed beneficiary verification in Dereige

An additional 150 farmers from the Katila area received seeds from National Care and Development (NOCD) which is the local partner NGO for the current award. These farmers received 750 kgs of sorghum, 750 kgs of millet, 150 kgs of okra, 300 kgs of cowpeas and 3,000 kgs of groundnuts.



MCS also conducted farmer training on tree nursery management and tree planting in Sani Deleiba for 40 farmers, including 18 females and 22 males. The three-day training mainly focused on nursery establishment and management including tree nursery establishment and management, nursery records and record keeping plus marketing of tree seedlings. The training was conducted in collaboration with the State Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which provided training facilitators from the Horticulture

Department. Upon successful completion of training, MCS distributed 800 fruit tree seedlings of lime and guavas to 40 training participants (18 females and 22 males) from Sani Deleiba.

During the reporting period, MCS also conducted farmer training on seed multiplication for 20 seed producers (4 females and 16 males) in Sani Deleiba. The training enhanced farmers' knowledge on seed production including seed selection, agronomic practices and post-harvest handling and storage. The farmers were supported with seeds and tools including donkey ploughs. The training sessions were jointly facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture facilitators and MCS staff.

Sector 3: Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)

Sub-sector 3.1: Economic Asset Development

MCS conducted an eight-day business skills training for 15 facilitators (12 males and 3 females) selected from Nyala Technical School, Nyala Technical College, MCS and partner NGO staff.

The training was conducted to build the capacity of the partner technical institution trainers that MCS collaborates with to train vocational skills trainees. With this capacity



building training, the technical institutions are expected to incorporate business skills training modules into their vocational skills training curriculum. The training was conducted at Nyala Technical College and was facilitated by a consultant and lecturer from the Commerce Department at Nyala University who also provided the Arabic translated copies of the ILO training manuals 'Start and Improve Your Business' (SIYB) and 'Grow and Improve Your Business' (GIYB) which were used during the training.

On the request of UMCOR (INGO), MCS also conducted a five-day basic business skills training for 30 women trained by UMCOR in vocational skills under OFDA funding. The

training replicated the ToT, and the same facilitator led the training with the same hand-outs and materials. This training was also conducted at Nyala Technical College.

3. Cross-cutting Issues

a. Environment

MCS considers the protection of the environment during the design and implementation of the all program activities. The team is using environmentally friendly materials in the construction and rehabilitation of sanitation facilities, the rehabilitation of water sources, and vegetable gardens to promote best practices in environmental management. The team will also ensure water protection to avoid contamination from human feces by promoting the adequate disposal of human feces in sanitation facilities and proper waste management.

MCS continued with farmer training on tree nursery management and tree planting and a total of 40 farmers in Sani Deleiba were trained. MCS distributed 800 fruit tree seedlings of lime and guavas to 40 beneficiaries (18 females and 22 males) in Sani Deleiba. These trees will not only provide food crops for farmers but will also contribute towards better air and soil quality in the area.

b. Gender

MCS staff promote gender representation by advising the communities to select leadership groups with an equal participation of women and men in WASH committees for managing water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities, and AFS and ERMS programs. MCS purposefully targets women and youth (boys and girls) in order to encourage them to participate in problem solving and decision making in their communities. During the past quarter, more females (55.35%) than males benefited from the agriculture and food security sector interventions. In the ERMS sector more women were targeted (73.33%) than men.

c. Capacity Building

MCS will continue the process of ownership and encourage IDP communities to manage water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities. Besides the regular program trainings, MCS provided trainings to build the capacity of beneficiaries in order to sustain sanitation services in IDP camps. Forty five people (15 in Dereige, 15 in Sakaly and 15 in Elserif Camp) were trained on the production of latrine slabs. MCS also conducted a capacity building training on business skills for Nyala technical institution facilitators to enable them to incorporate the business skills module in the vocational skills curriculum for their institutions.

d: Coordination

MCS continues to participate in bi-weekly WASH sector coordination meetings chaired by UNICEF/ WES, an emergency response meeting for new arrivals, and joint monitoring visits organized by OCHA and HAC as well as attending monthly Area Food Security and Livelihood cluster meetings chaired by FAO and co-chaired by WFP representatives. MCS also has continued to participate in the bi-weekly Food Security and Livelihood sector three working groups on Crops, Livestock and Natural Resources.

4. Challenges

- General insecurity in Nyala town and the restriction of movement to program areas due to fighting in the rural areas continues to be an issue. MCS has followed restrictions and staff only travel to the field after receiving travel permits from HAC and crosschecking with the communities to ensure staff safety.
- Prices in Nyala town are high compared to the same period last year, leading to an increase in costs for some program inputs like seeds and tools.
- Lack of contingency planning in response to the new arrivals.

Baseline data – Seventh Quarterly Data											
Locations and Number of People per Location:		Dereige 22436		Sakaly 7906		Elsereif 20229		Abga Rajel 13500		Sani Deleiba 16573	
Sector 1:	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)										
Objective:	Conflict Affected populations have increased access to quality water supply, appropriate sanitation facilities, and improved hygiene practices	Baseline	Q7	Baseline	Q7	Baseline	Q7	Baseline	Q7	Baseline	Q7
N. of Beneficiaries Targeted:	77,263										
N. of IDPs Beneficiaries Targeted:	50,571										
Sub-Sector Name:	Water Supply										
Indicator 1:	Number of people directly benefiting from the water supply infrastructure program		22436		7906		20229	-	-		
Indicator 2:	Number of people targeted by water supply infrastructure (WS 1 ¹)	17	14.7	14	16.2	19	17.7	-	-		
Indicator 3:	Number of water points developed, repaired or rehabilitated (WS 3, Bacteriological)	-	20		20		20	-			
Indicator 4:	Number of water points developed, repaired or rehabilitated (WS 4, Chlorine)	-	30		30		30	-	-		
Sub-Sector Name:	Sanitation	-		-		-					

¹ Water coverage lit/person/day

Indicator 1:	<i>Number of people directly benefiting from the sanitation infrastructure program.</i>		22436		7906		20229	-	-		
Indicator 2:	<i>Number of people whose family received or built a household latrine as a result of the program (S 4, Household Latrine Infrastructure)</i>	23660	14852	7194	5870	12740	19299				
Indicator 3:	<i>Number of people receiving hygiene promotion (S7, Solid Waste Management Household)</i>	12480	15600	4744	6878	6890	8320				
Sub-Sector Name:	Environmental Health										
Indicator 1:	<i>Number of people directly benefiting from solid waste management, drainage , activities (without double-counting)</i>		22436		7906		20229				
Indicator 2:	<i>Number of people targeted by environmental health program (EH2, Community Cleanup)</i>		3		3		3				
Sub-Sector Name:	Hygiene Promotion										
Indicator 1:	<i>Number of people receiving direct hygiene promotion (excluding mass media campaigns and without double –</i>		18039		7360		16810				
Indicator 2:	<i>Number of people receiving hygiene promotion (HP1, Hand Washing Knowledge)</i>	20891	14808	2055	6325	3894	13594				
Indicator 3:	<i>Number of people receiving hygiene promotion (HP3, Safe Water Handling)</i>	15080	18532	4862	6325	8450	17458				
Sector 2:	Agriculture and Food Security (AFS)										
Main Objective:	<i>To improve food security amongst vulnerable households, enhancing subsistence consumption and better nutrition through increased crop production</i>										

Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	13,325										
Number of IDP Beneficiaries Targeted:	7,200										
Sub-Sector Name:	Seed Systems Security										
Indicator 1:	<i>Projected increase in number of months of food self-sufficiency due to seed systems/agricultural input for beneficiary households</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indicator 2:	<i>Number of people benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities, by sex</i>	0	1780	0	1941	0	2214	0	1411	0	2425
Sector 3:	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)										
Main Objective:	<i>Improve business skills and income generation opportunities for vulnerable households</i>										
Number of Beneficiaries Targeted:	3,515										
Number of IDP Beneficiaries Targeted:	2,475										
Sub-Sector Name:	New Livelihoods Development										
Indicator 1:	<i>Number of people assisted through new livelihoods development activities, by sex</i>	-		-		-		-	-		

Indicator 2:	<i>Number of new MSEs started</i>	-		-		-		-	-		
Indicator 3:	<i>Percentage of people, by sex, continuing in their new livelihoods by program completion</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Indicator 4:	<i>Total USD amount channeled into the program area through sub-sector activities.</i>	-		-		-		-			